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1. (Original) An access control system, comprising:

an electronic device adapted for operation using power from a power source, said power source energizing a circuit of said electronic device for enabling a startup procedure of said electronic device;

a switch, coupled between said power source and said processor, for enabling said energizing of said circuit responsive to an assertion of an activation signal; and

a biometric reader coupled to said switch, comprising:

a memory for storing a biometric signature;

a biometric sensor, coupled to said memory, for discerning a biometric profile; and

a verifier, coupled to said biometric sensor and to said memory, for asserting said activation signal when said biometric profile matches said biometric signature.

2. (Original) A method for controlling access to an electronic device, comprising:

discerning a biometric profile of a prospective user of the electronic device;

comparing said biometric profile to a stored biometric signature of an authorized user of the electronic device; thereafter

asserting an activation signal to a switch when said prospective user is an authorized user, said switch interposed between a power source of the electronic device and a circuit of the electronic device for enabling a startup procedure of said electronic device such that said switch interrupts power to said circuit when said activation signal is not asserted.

3. (NEW) A biometric system, comprising:

an electronic device operable from power provided from a power source;

a switch, coupled to said electronic device, for gating said power from said power source responsive to an activation signal; and

a biometric reader for asserting said activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature.

4. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said biometric signature includes a fingerprint.

5. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said biometric signature includes a retinal pattern.

6. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said electronic device includes portable electronic device.

7. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 6 wherein said portable electronic device includes a personal data assistant (PDA).

8. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 6 wherein said portable electronic device includes a laptop computer.

9. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said power source includes a battery.

10. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said power source includes a power supply.

11. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said power source includes a direct power.

12. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is integrated into said electronic device.

13. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is integrated into said power source.

14. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is integrated into said biometric reader.

15. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said switch is a state device for storing an operational mode.

16. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 15 wherein said operational mode maintains said gating of said power from said power source after receiving an asserted activation signal.

17. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 16 wherein said operational mode is reset to disable said power from said power source when said electronic device is inactivated pending reassertion of said activation signal.

18. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said electronic device includes a plurality of BIOS routines and wherein said switch selectively activates one or more of said BIOS routines responsive to said activation signal.

19. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 18 wherein said biometric reader discriminates between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifies a particular one of said users.

20. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 19 wherein said switch selectively activates said one or more said BIOS routine responsive to said particular one user with said switch activating a different one or more of said BIOS routines for said first user than activated for said second user.

21. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 3 wherein said electronic device enables access to a set of resources responsive to an authentication and wherein said switch provides said authentication responsive to said activation signal.

22. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 21 wherein said biometric reader discriminates between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifies a particular one of said users.

23. (NEW) The biometric system of claim 22 wherein said switch selectively enables access to one or more resources of said set of resources responsive to said particular one

user with said switch signaling enablement of a different one or more resources for said first user than enabled for said second user.

24. (NEW) A biometric-mediated access method, comprising:

- a) establishing a biometric profile from a prospective user;
- b) comparing said biometric profile to a biometric signature;
- c) asserting an activation signal when said profile and said signature match; and
- d) gating, responsive to said activation signal, power from a power source to an

electronic device to enable operation of said electronic device.

25. (NEW) The method of claim of 24 wherein said gating step d) operation enablement includes initiating a boot sequence of said electronic device.

26. (NEW) A biometric-mediated access method, comprising:

a) asserting an activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature; and

b) gating, responsive to said activation signal, power from a power source to an electronic device operable from said power using a switch operably disposed between said power source and said electronic device.

27. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said biometric signature includes a fingerprint.

28. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said biometric signature includes a retinal pattern.

29. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said electronic device includes portable electronic device.

30. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 29 wherein said portable electronic device includes a personal data assistant (PDA).

31. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 29 wherein said portable electronic device includes a laptop computer.

32. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said power source includes a battery.

33. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said power source includes a power supply.

34. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said power source includes a direct power.

35. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is integrated into said electronic device.

36. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is integrated into said power source.

37. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is integrated into said biometric reader.

38. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said switch is a state device for storing an operational mode.

39. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 38 further comprising maintaining said operational mode said gating of said power from said power source after receiving an asserted activation signal.

40. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 39 further comprising resetting said operational mode to disable said power from said power source when said electronic device is inactivated pending a reassertion of said activation signal.

41. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said electronic device includes a plurality of BIOS routines, said method further comprising activating selectively one or more of said BIOS routines responsive to said activation signal.

42. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 41 further comprising a biometric reader for asserting said activation signal responsive to said verification of said biometric signature, the method further comprising discriminating between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifying a particular one of said users.

43. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 42 further comprising activating selectively said one or more said BIOS routine responsive to said particular one user wherein a different one or more of said BIOS routines are activated for said first user than are activated for said second user.

44. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 26 wherein said electronic device enables access to a set of resources responsive to an authentication and wherein said switch provides said authentication responsive to said activation signal.

45. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 44 further comprising discriminating between a first user and a second user, with said activation signal identifying a particular one of said users.

46. (NEW) The biometric-mediated access method of claim 45 further comprising selectively enabling access to one or more resources of said set of resources responsive to said particular one user with a different one or more resources enabled for said first user than are enabled for said second user.

47. (NEW) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium carrying program instructions for powering an electronic device when executed using a computing system, the executed program instructions executing a method, the method comprising:

a) asserting an activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature; and

b) gating, responsive to said activation signal, power from a power source to the electronic device operable from said power using a switch operably disposed between said power source and the electronic device.

48. (NEW) A propagated signal on which is carried computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computing system performs a method, the method comprising:

a) asserting an activation signal responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature; and

b) gating, responsive to said activation signal, power from a power source to the electronic device operable from said power using a switch operably disposed between said power source and said electronic device.

49. (NEW) A biometric-apparatus, comprising:

means, responsive to a verification of a user biometric signature, for asserting an activation signal to enable a power source; and

means, responsive to said activation signal, for gating power from said power source to an electronic device operable from said power using a switch operably disposed between said power source and said electronic device.